

118 in 2001 · 74 in 2002
37% Decrease

Narcotics Violations

Narcotics includes all incidents in which the police made an arrest, complaint, or warrant for the possession or distribution of illegal drugs. Narcotics statistics do not include all instances of narcotics use or distribution; they only reflect cases known to the police.

Narcotics Violations: Geographic Breakdown

Neighborhood	3 rd Q. 2000	3 rd Q. 2001	3 rd Q. 2002
East Cambridge	7	13	11
MIT	6	2	2
Inman/Harrington	9	15	3
Area 4	23	17	10
Cambridgeport	21	9	11
Mid-Cambridge	11	14	6
Riverside	11	18	13
Agassiz	1	0	2
Peabody	8	9	2
West Cambridge	9	7	3
North Cambridge	7	11	7
Cambridge Highlands	2	3	1
Strawberry Hill	2	0	3
Unknown	1	0	0

the city's neighborhoods.

As usual, marijuana was the favored drug among arrestees, with 31 out of 74 arrests, accounting for 42% of those who were arrested for possession of the drug (with or without intent to distribute.) About 24% of total arrests were attributed to the possession of cocaine/crack, and 20% were attributed to possession of heroin. 9% for the illegal possession of prescription drugs, and an additional 5% for the possession of hypodermic needles

Narcotics arrests declined from 118 incidents during the first three quarters of 2001, to 74 reports for the first nine months of 2002. A total of 107 individuals have been arrested for drugs this year. Of the 44 arrested this quarter only 4 arrestees were female bringing the year to date total to 9 females. This is 11% of the arrestees. Most of the arrests were for possession of cocaine or marijuana. Forty-four of arrestees were residents of Cambridge.

From 2000, drug incidents dropped dramatically (31%), due in part to the extensive efforts put forth by the Special Investigations Unit. In the wake of 2000's major drug crackdown, the S.I.U. continued to make a large percent of the city's narcotics arrests.

As clearly indicated by the figures on the right, drug incidents were clustered around the city's mid-section throughout 01' and 02'. Not only did numbers significantly drop in the third quarter of 2001, they also became more evenly dispersed throughout

Drug Tip Hotline

*The Special Investigations Unit employs an anonymous Drug Tip Hotline to gain intelligence information from the community. The Unit can be reached by calling **617-349-3359**. Generally, you will be greeted by a taped message instructing you to leave very detailed information. **You do not have to provide any personal information and all information is***

275 in 2001 · 367 in 2002
33% Increase

Fraud and Forgery

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System does not include fraud, false pretenses, forgery, embezzlement, and confidence games among larceny. Yet in many cases, fraud is a much more serious crime than theft. Victims of check forgery and "con" games stand to lose thousands of dollars. Often added to this loss is the personal humiliation that accompanies being "duped" by a "con man." The confidence game crook, a particularly crafty breed of criminal who has no qualms with deceiving his victims face-to-face, expects (often correctly) that his victim's embarrassment will deter him or her from reporting the crime to the police.

A thirty-four percent increase in fraud and forgery incidents was reported in the first nine months of 2002. This increase is due mostly to increases in credit card forgery and identity theft. Identity theft continues to grow due to the ease in which peoples' identities can be stolen on the Internet during e-commerce transactions. Fraud and forgery incidents are broken down as follows:

- **Counterfeiting:** Two counterfeiting incidents were reported during the first nine months of 2002. Both incidents occurred this summer and involved the passing of counterfeit \$100 bills.

Crime	Third Q. 2001	Third Q. 2002
Counterfeiting	4	2
Forgery/Uttering	195	237
Application	(7)	(2)
Bad Check	(26)	(27)
Forged Check	(46)	(44)
ATM/Credit Card	(116)	(160)
Prescription	(0)	(4)
Embezzlement	43	5
Con Games	21	32
Big Carrot	(2)	(8)
Utility Impostor	(0)	(1)
Pigeon Drop	(3)	(7)
Charity	(0)	(6)
Cash Shuffle	(2)	(3)
Miscellaneous	(14)	(7)
Identity Theft	12	91

- **Application:** There were two incidents reported of a forged application. One incident involved a domestic situation in which a child forged his father's signature on a student loan application.
- **Bad Check:** The writing of checks on insufficient funds or closed accounts. Most "bounced" checks are not reported as criminal incidents, particularly if it seems to be an innocent mistake, but the Cambridge Police still took 27 reports for bad checks in the first nine months of this year.
- **Forged Check:** 44 crimes involved the use of a lost or stolen check, with the offender forging the victim's signature.
- **ATM/Credit Card Fraud:** 160 incidents of the use of a lost or stolen credit or ATM card were reported in 2002, compared to 116 in 2001. This crime has become more popular with the proliferation of "check

cards." The Galleria is a hot spot for this crime.

- **Embezzlement:** A situation in which an employee takes advantage of his position for his own financial gain, re-diverting company funds or property to himself. Only 5 were reported in the first nine months of 2002, compared to 43 incidents reported during 2001. This crime records one of the largest decreases of all in this category. Typically, these incidents involve "blue collar embezzlement" in which store clerks—often juveniles—take the day's deposits or a selection of merchandise. Galleria and Harvard Square stores are affected most.
- **"Con" Games:** We had 32 swindles, con games or flim flams in the first nine months of 2002, compared to 21 in 2001. All eight of the "Big Carrot" scams reported so far this year occurred at the Galleria Mall. The typical scenario involves a suspect, claiming to be affiliated with one of the stores in the Galleria Mall such as Sears or BestBuy, calling a victim and telling them that certain merchandise is overstocked and thus can be purchased at a low price. The victim usually agrees to meet the suspect somewhere in the vicinity of the Mall where money is exchanged and the suspect promises to meet the victim later with the merchandise. The suspect is then never seen again. Seven "Pigeon Drops" were also reported in the first nine months of 2002. These scams typically involve suspects calling victims and telling them that they have won a large sum of money. The suspects then tell the victims that in order to receive the winnings, the victims must pay taxes to the suspects. Victims of this fact pattern tend to turn over credit card numbers to the suspects and then never hear from them again.
- **Identity Theft:** A suspect purchases merchandise or services with personal information other than their own. This crime is one of the fastest growing crimes, especially on the Internet. Consequences for victims can range from having to cancel credit cards, to credit reports being ruined, to identities being used in the commission of crimes.

802 in 2001 · 806 in 2002
Inc. Change

Malicious Destruction

Vandalism, or malicious destruction of property, includes tire-slashing, window smashing, spray-painting, and myriad other crimes in which someone's property is willfully and maliciously damaged. It is the most commonly reported crime in Cambridge, yet we suspect that vandalism is one of the most underreported crimes; residents and businesses frequently ignore "minor" incidents of vandalism and graffiti.

There were hardly any changes in the number of malicious destruction incidents reported in the first nine months of 2002, but there were some significant changes in the numbers that each neighborhood reported. The Cambridge Highlands experienced a drastic increase by nearly tripling the number of incidents reported in the third quarter of 2001, while West Cambridge did the exact opposite by experiencing nearly half of what it did in 2001.

Category	2001 3 rd Q.	2002 3 rd Q.
Car window smashed	163	158
Dents/other damage to car	166	173
Tires slashed or punctured	89	94
Scratches, "pinstripes"	38	61
Attempted theft	27	47
Total Damage to Autos	483	533
Misc. damage at residences	48	58
Window of residence smashed	29	24
Total Damage to Residences	77	82
Window of business smashed	48	37
Misc. damage to businesses	42	35
Total Damage to Businesses	90	72
Damage to Other Personal Property	3	9
Graffiti	149	110

Due to a trend of graffiti in certain neighborhoods over the past year or two, some of the neighborhoods reported an increase – some slight, some dramatic – while others reported decreases – both slight and dramatic. The third quarter of 2002 reported a decrease in graffiti, by 26%, dropping from 149 incidents during this time frame in 2001 to 110 incidents in 2002. Attributions for this recent decrease can be given to the attention the city has been paying to this ever-lasting epidemic, including neighborhood meetings of residents and city task forces.

- Riverside experienced the majority of graffiti over the past three months, with eleven incidents. Nearly half of these episodes took place toward the end of July when five graffiti markings were seen in the River St. and Jay St. area. In this spree, the same 'tag' (graffiti-like symbols/letters/language identifiable by a certain group of individuals – usually the 'taggers' themselves) of yellow spray-paint was seen on automobiles and residences in this remote location.

- Overall, destruction to cars experienced a considerable increase, with fifty more incidents (10%) than the third quarter of 2001. The majority of this increase can be ascribed to the spree of larcenies from motor vehicles Cambridge experienced over the past two months, predominantly in August. In these situations, culprits break car windows and/or tamper with doors and their locks with the intention of stealing from the car or the car itself. When these culprits are seen by witnesses or they see someone walking down the street, they will leave this car and go onto another, possibly even in another neighborhood, leaving behind the act of malicious destruction.

Neighborhood	3 rd Q. 2001	3 rd Q. 2002	Change
East Cambridge	86	104	+21%
MIT	8	6	-25%
Inman/Harrington	59	48	-19%
Area 4	97	88	-9%
Cambridgeport	90	105	+17%
Mid-Cambridge	82	102	+24%
Riverside	74	71	-4%
Agassiz	24	19	-21%
Peabody	74	91	+23%
West Cambridge	78	47	-40%
North Cambridge	96	91	-5%
Cambridge Highlands	8	21	+163%
Strawberry Hill	26	13	-50%

61 in 2001 · 87 in 2002
43% Increase

Sex Offenses

The term "sex offenses" refers to six offenses of a sexual nature, not including rape, which is a Part I crime

Prostitution and Solicitation

Prostitution is most commonly associated with “streetwalking”—that is, prostitutes working the street corners looking for clients to pick them up in cars. This type of prostitution has long been considered a sign of urban decay and social disorganization. Consequently, the Cambridge Police Department's Special Investigations Unit has aggressively targeted both “streetwalkers” and “johns” over the past decade with seasonal stings. Their efforts have nearly eradicated the presence of visible streetwalking in the city of Cambridge. The following is a review of the three major stings that were set up and executed by the Special Investigations Unit in the first nine months of 2002:

- There were four prostitution arrests in mid-January at the Marriott Hotel. The Unit set up a sting operation resulting in four arrests of women, ranging in ages from 17 to 34 years old.

- Following complaints about a possible prostitution ring in the Central Square area, the Special Investigations Unit set up a sting operation in June to cease the business. Based out of New York City, the business set up a brothel in Cambridge, advertising on the Internet. As a result of the sting, two females, from Florida and Canada were arrested for prostitution.

- In mid-August, the Unit set up an undercover operation on Massachusetts Avenue that resulted in five arrests of individuals soliciting sex from an undercover agent.

Crime	3 rd Q. 2001	3 rd Q. 2002
Prostitution & Solicitation	0	10
Indecent Assault	13	24
Indecent Exposure	18	14
Peeping & Spying	8	15
Annoying & Accosting	14	13
Obscene Phone Calls	8	11

Indecent Assault

Indecent assault involves the unwanted touching of one person by another in a private area or with sexual overtones. Incidents that show that the offender attempted or intended to rape the victim are counted as rapes, not as indecent assaults. This is predominately a crime in which the victim and offender know each other. Indecent assault is categorized in a manner similar to rape. In the first half of 2002, incidents broke into the following categorizations:

- 16 **contact/acquaintance** assaults were reported this first half including, a student who reported an assault by her teacher and a female victim who awoke to an acquaintance in her bed assaulting her in a sexual manner.
- 8 **“blitz”** assaults, in which the victim was suddenly grabbed by a stranger, usually while walking in a public place. Three of the blitz assaults occurred in the Central Square and two resulted in arrests.

Indecent Exposure

Indecent exposure crimes generally fall into three classifications: “flashers,” who deliberately expose themselves to unsuspecting passers-by; homeless or “street” people who urinate in public places (many of the “flashers” are homeless as well); and people who simply show no discretion in front of an open window or while sunbathing. When arrested, flashers are often intoxicated, under the influence of narcotics, or mentally disturbed. No patterns have been established, however it is important to note that in half of the incidents, male suspects were seen masturbating by passersby. In two incidents, the suspects called out to the victims in order to gain their attention. There were two arrests in these offenses.

Peeping & Spying

Peeping and spying offenders peer through the windows of houses or apartments, generally at night. Of the fifteen offenses, twelve occurred after 10:00 pm into the early morning hours. All but two of the suspects were seen peeping in the window. In one incident, the male suspect was seen masturbating as well. There were arrests in the third quarter of men from Vermont and Dorchester, as well as two from Cambridge.

Annoying & Accosting

“Annoying and Accosting a Member of the Opposite Sex” is a form of criminal harassment. Generally, it involves a man repeatedly following, shouting, making off-color suggestions, hooting, repeatedly asking for a date, or otherwise harassing a woman. It happens most often on the street and in the workplace. Each report involves an individual situation; the crime is not subject to geographic patterns.

Obscene Phone Calls

The eleven incidents of obscene telephone calls reported during the third quarter of 2002 do not show any patterns or trends; however, it is suspected that this crime has a high underreporting factor.

Other Part II Crimes

Under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, any actual crime not recorded, as a Part I Crime is a Part II Crime. The relative infrequency of patterns and trends among these crimes discourages detailed analysis.

- All but three **disorderly conduct** incidents resulted in an arrest. Fifteen of these arrests took place on Massachusetts Avenue and most were the result of excessive drinking. The majority of the incidents took place on weekend nights, in Central Square (27%) and Harvard Square (30%).

- Due to high foot traffic and the abundance of public benches, the Squares within Cambridge see the most amount of **public drinking**. The following areas reported the most activity – Central Square (45%), Harvard Square (30%) and Porter Square (15%). In response to complaints by Central Square residents and business owners, enforcement of the public drinking statutes has increased, leading to more arrests for this crime.

- **Hit and run accidents** are often among the most commonly reported crimes in Cambridge. Of those reported in 2002, 4% involved injury to pedestrians, 21% involved damage to moving cars, 73% to parked cars, and 2% to other property. These percentages have been quite consistent over the past three years, where any possible fluctuation has not increased or decreased more than five percent.

- **Kidnapping** is one of the most chilling crimes, and a very infrequent one. No kidnappings have been reported in the last three months. There were however five reported in the first half of 2002. Only one of those incidents involved the threat of a weapon. In the incident, a firearm was shown and the victim was forced to enter the car. Fortunately, the victim was able to get out of the car and run home. In most of the situations, the kidnappings are classified as domestic in nature, as was the case in three of the five reported incidents.

- Three arrests were made for **weapons violations** during the first nine months of 2002 – one in the Area 4 neighborhood, one in the Riverside neighborhood, and one in the Agassiz neighborhood. The remaining incidents, although there was no arrest, took place in the MIT and North Cambridge neighborhoods. One weapon incident involved a bomb threat that was received at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Memorial Drive. No one was hurt in this incident.

Crime	3 rd Q. 2001	3 rd Q. 2002
Disorderly Conduct	39	33
Drinking in Public	17	20
Annoying Phone Calls	146	123
Hit & Run Accidents	607	549
Kidnapping & Attempt. Kidnapping	2	5
Liquor Sale/ Possession Crimes	2	2
Operating Under the Influence	35	34
Threats to Commit a Crime	324	285
Traffic Arrests	119	203
Trespassing	48	39
Weapons Violations	7	5
Extortion/Blackmail	2	1

Hate Crimes

"Hate Crime" is the common term for federal and state Civil Rights Violations. Hate crimes include any crimes principally motivated by hatred of another because of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, handicap status, or gender. *All hate crimes would still be crimes even if the bias motivation were absent*; therefore, each hate crime listed below is also tallied elsewhere in this report.

Up and through the first quarter of 2002, twelve crimes were reported in Cambridge that could be classified as a "hate crimes". Due to the anniversary of the tragic events that occurred on September 11th, analysis reveals a

total of four situations that were rooted from this historical date. The following is a chronological recap of the events that have taken place so far this year:

1. The first hate crime of 2002 occurred late in the month of February when a white male in his twenties passed a black female on the street in front of the parking garage on Green St. and called her a racial slur. The culprit then punched the female in the chest for no apparent reason. When a by-stander questioned the perpetrator about his actions, he reprimanded the witness by saying "don't stick up for an *expletive*".
2. An incident in the middle of March ensued after three suspects known to the victim yelled anti-gay remarks at him. As the victim was leaving the Cambridge Hospital methadone clinic, one of the suspects yelled negative comments regarding his sexuality and threatened to kill him. Upon arriving at his home later that day, the victim was confronted by two of the same suspects when they boxed him in with their cars. The situation ended when a neighbor came outside and diffused the situation.
3. The first day of April marked the third hate crime in 2002. In this incident, a live TV show was being conducted at CCTV, an anonymous caller phoned in and made ethnically-related remarks to the host, who was a Muslim.
4. An act of malicious destruction was committed during the first weekend of April when racial slurs were etched into the victim's car on Washington St. In this instance, an unknown suspect scratched the paint to the car in various spots and scratched racially biased threats on the hood of the car.
5. An additional racially prejudiced incident took place on May 1st when a middle-aged perpetrator was sitting in his car and called the victim a racial insult while he was walking along Huron Ave.
6. An incident that took place over the second weekend of May involving a cab driver marks the sixth hate crime of 2002. In this situation, a cab driver picked up a fare and headed towards East Cambridge. The cab driver stated to the fare "you're a Middle-Easterner...I don't want you in my cab". The cab driver began to drive recklessly and the victim jumped out in the Central Square area.
7. A second incident in May took place when an unprovoked assault took place in Porter Square. This incident ensued when a group of 45 homeless white males attacked the mentally handicapped victim and made anti-gay insults at him. One of the suspects kicked the victim in the back while another punched him in the mouth, causing a laceration.
8. An assault that took place in early July involved harassment regarding the victim's sexual orientation. While walking along the street in Cambridgeport, a male suspect approached the victim and punched him in the face, and then jabbed him in the back with a bat. After the assault, the suspect threatened to do more bodily harm if he saw him again.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 was enacted on April 23rd 1990, requiring the Attorney General to collect data on crimes exhibiting racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual prejudice. It was not until September of 1994 that the Act was amended to include biased acts against those with either physical or mental disabilities. The 1999 Uniform Crime Report reveals that there were as many as 7,876 incidents, reported to the FBI in 1999 that categorized as hate crimes. A small portion of these incidents (0.2%, or 19, in total) was disability-related, while the majority of them were race-oriented (56.3%, or 4,295, in total). Religion-oriented hate crimes were measured at 16.5% (1,411, in total), and Ethnic hate crimes at 10.9% (829, in total). Hate crimes based on Sexual Orientation were quoted at 16.0% (1,317 incidents), while Multiple-Bias

9. A visit to the Cambridge City Hospital in mid-July was a result of the ninth hate crime. An African American female was walking towards Richdale Ave. when a car came from behind yelling racial slurs, and threw an unknown object, knocking her to the ground. The victim was unable to identify any suspects and/or motor vehicle.
10. Three days after the anniversary of September 11th, a business competitor took a knife to his own throat and made a slicing motion, saying he would kill his competitor, due to the fact that he is Pakistan. The same suspect had been harassing his competitor for three months, saying he was a terrorist and that he wanted to kill him.
11. While working at the Sunoco gas station in late September, the clerk was approached by a white male who stated "you f***ing Muslim". The clerk ran into the station and locked the door behind him while the suspect continued to yell at him and threaten to come back and do physical harm to the clerk. The suspect entered an awaiting vehicle, which was occupied by a female passenger.
12. The final incident took place on August 28th when a Middle Eastern woman reported that her neighbor yelled "f***ing Arabs" as she entered her home.